



FALL 2016 / WINTER 2017



Good Samaritans

6 NJDOC Officers Lend Assistance Following Motor Vehicle Accident

You're driving home from work one day, and on the side of the road you see an overturned truck, smoke rising from under the hood.

One particular late-summer Friday, during their commutes home, six New Jersey Department of Corrections officers from three different prisons were faced with this scenario. Without hesitation, they stopped to lend assistance.

On September 9, Sergeant Stephen Burke of the Central Reception and Assignment Facility, Senior Correction Officer Robert Hailey of Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, and Sergeant Brian Patoe, Correction Officer Recruits Shawn Putnam, Joseph White



and Paul Lewis, all of New Jersey State Prison, were traveling

home on Route 195 from their respective facilities when they noticed an overturned sports utility vehicle by the woods on the side of the highway in Jackson Township. Upon inspection of the vehicle, they found that the driver was inside and still breathing. A former fire chief, who had arrived moments sooner, cut the battery due to a fuel leak.

Sergeant Brian Patoe (far left) is joined by (from left) Correction Officer Recruits Paul Lewis, Shawn Putnam, and Joseph White.

"As I ran up to the vehicle," Putnam recalled, "I checked in the windows to see if anybody was still inside and noticed there was a driver inside — there

was no one else inside — and saw that his stomach was moving at the time. So we immediately tried to gain entry into the car.”

Lewis continued: “We knew that, with his face turning blue, he wasn’t getting enough oxygen, so we had to react quickly. We weren’t going to be able to take the individual out of the sunroof of his vehicle, so then we decided to flip the vehicle over on its wheels. The firefighter came with the Jaws of Life to open up the driver-side door and take the man out. Then the firefighter began performing CPR.”

Burke, who arrived to the scene after a 16-hour shift, commended the officers for their brave efforts.

“The vehicle was on an embankment, so it had to actually be pushed uphill,” Burke explained. “One small slip and the vehicle would have rolled down on top of the officers. Add all that to the fact that the engine was smoking, and this was an extremely dangerous situation.

“There was no hesitation on the part of any officer on scene,” he added.

In resolving the situation, the six NJDOC officers utilized skills they’ve gained from their training and experiences in the department.

“We kept calm... We didn’t let it get the best of us,” Putnam explained.

“And for our training, we’re taught to react to situations in here (in the prisons) *and* out there,” White added. “We all got to the scene of the accident around the same time, but we all had the same idea: that we needed to get to the victim, check his vitals, and get him out of the vehicle as soon as possible. And we all did that as a team, and we really didn’t have to talk much. We just knew what the other officers were doing, and we filled in the spots that we needed to fill in.”

“Even being from different facilities,” Lewis stated, “we all worked really well together.”

Patoe agreed with Lewis’ observation.

“You don’t really know too much about someone until a situation like this arises — the whole fight or flight instinct,” Patoe explained. “You’re either going to run away or you’re going to run to it. These guys decided to stop and put themselves in harm’s way. I want to commend all of them because they did something that a lot of people wouldn’t do, especially for somebody they don’t know.”

The officers also were aided by others who stopped to help.

In addition to the former fire chief, "there was a nurse and a couple civilian construction workers, and we used their tools to break open the windows," Putnam recalled.

Sadly, the man could not be saved, despite the efforts of the correctional officers and the others.

"Treat others as you would want yourself and your loved ones treated," Patoe suggested. "If that was my family member or friend overturned on the side of the road, I hope that someone would pull over and do the same thing."





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Still Going Strong

Twenty-Five Years after Retirement, Domovich, 92, Continues Making Impact

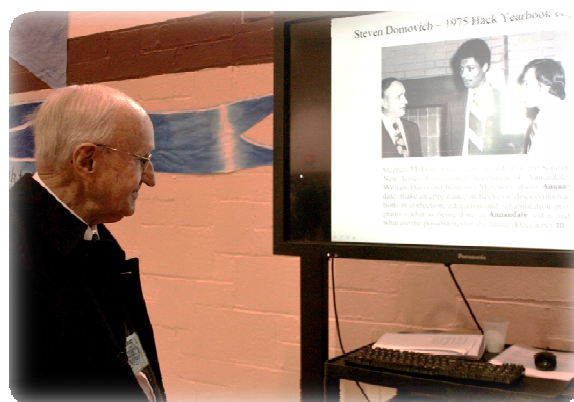
As a teenager, he stormed the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in service of his country. Today, he is a prominent figure in his community.

Stephen Domovich, now 92 and celebrating 25 years of retirement, continues to live a vigorous life. It began one week after graduating from high school in 1943 when he was drafted to fight in World War II. In December of that year, he and his company were shipped overseas.

On June 6, 1944, forever known as D-Day, Domovich and his company landed on Omaha Beach. The brave men were strafed but continued to push farther inland throughout the evening of what was the single largest Allies campaign of its day.

His military service continued throughout four more campaigns in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. While overseas, Domovich lost his mother and father, but he was unable to return home for his parents' services.

"My mother had already been ill when I left for the war, but my father's passing was very unexpected," Domovich explained, noting that his father worked in a



Stephen Domovich reads a 41-year-old yearbook highlight during a recent Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility graduation ceremony.

facility where bricks were continuously being crushed, and the constant inhalation of the crushed brick particles was fatal.

After the Allies' victory in 1945, Domovich returned home. Despite the loss of his parents, he continued to persevere and stay positive.

In January 1946, Domovich enrolled in East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, where he met his future wife, Ramona, before graduating with a bachelor's degree in just three years. Anticipating difficulty in finding a teaching and coaching job in the middle of the school year, Domovich, with help from one of his former teachers, began working in the health and physical education department of the Division of Institutions & Agencies, which later became the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Domovich moved into Annandale Farms, now known as Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility, where he lived on his own on the third floor of a building occupied by inmates. He worked full time, but as the NJDOC's education program grew, so did Domovich's workload. He began to work more hours and coached inmates in track and field and football for a number of years.

Though he enjoyed his work as a teacher and coach — and since he was newly married and moved off-grounds — Domovich looked to expand his job security within the NJDOC.

"So I started out as a teacher, but then I took a test because I found out that [the NJDOC] can say, 'We don't need you to come back next year,'" Domovich explained. "So I decided to take a test to become an Instructor/Counselor."

Five years after becoming an Instructor/Counselor, Domovich became the supervisor of education. From there, he did some work with Albert C. Wagner — the man, not the prison — before becoming the Assistant Superintendent of Annandale Farms. Not long after that, Domovich became Superintendent (now known as Administrator).

During his tenure with the institution, Domovich significantly improved the education department, determined to minimize the chances of inmates returning to prison once they are released.

"A lot of counselling had to be done for the inmates to prepare them for the streets," Domovich stated. "The teachers should be aware of what kind of home the students are going back to."

He explained that teachers had to be more involved with their students than they typically are. Teachers at the correctional facility would ask about their students' lives, their homes, and so on. In this sense, they are able to help their students personally, as well as academically. Domovich added that this process ultimately assists in reducing recidivism, also.

This sort of innovative thinking was a catalyst for Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility naming an academic award and a vocational award in honor of him after his retirement: the Stephen Domovich Academic Award and the Stephen Domovich Career & Technical Education Award.

Following his retirement from Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility on September 1, 1991, Domovich remained a prominent figure in the NJDOC, serving on the board at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women for 20 years and continuing to attend Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility commencements every year. Today, he attends a Bible study at the institution every Monday night.

"For more than 70 years, Mr. Domovich has served his country, the State of New Jersey and the Department of Corrections in an admirable fashion," NJDOC Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan stated. "Having been part of the landing in Normandy, all free American citizens owe him a debt of gratitude. Furthermore, in consideration of his service as a former DOC employee and current volunteer to the inmate population, I believe he is a true role model to all of us."





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Age of Innovation

DEPTCOR Produces Numerous Products for Government Entities

An ergonomically designed chair, an office desk, an impenetrable locker: All of these products are constructed by inmates through a government program that is nearly 100 years old.

DEPTCOR, also known as the Bureau of State Use Industries, has been part of the New Jersey Department of Corrections for 40 years, though the bureau itself has been around since 1918.

Since it was first established, DEPTCOR has grown to operate in more than 20 shops statewide, employing nearly 800 inmates and producing a variety of high-demand products, from the archival shelving and keyboard trays you need at work to the picnic tables and beach boxes used by beach-goers you see at the shore.



DEPTCOR, also known as the Bureau of State Use Industries, has been around for nearly 100 years.

The agency has functioned under a three-point charter since it began.

"The first [point] was to combat inmate idleness; the second was to teach them a trade; and the third was to be at no cost to the taxpayer," DEPTCOR Director Kennedy O'Brien explained. "So the only thing that funds DEPTCOR is DEPTCOR."

It is through the manufacturing and selling of various products, and through the educating of inmates, that DEPTCOR is able to continue to operate.

Only tax-supported entities are able to utilize DEPTCOR's services, which is why products are made solely for state employees, parks, office buildings and even schools.

"Any time any of these particular municipalities have an idea of what they want to do and come to us, and it falls under the state contract, we'll manufacture it for them," Industrial Manager Joe Allen, who oversees DEPTCOR's wood and concrete production, stated. "We make all the office chairs, all the conference tables and panel systems."

"We also provide furniture for ADA (American Disabilities Act) requests — our chairs, our tables and keyboard trays," Lorraine Plantone, Industrial Manager at East Jersey State Prison's DEPTCOR facility, added.

DEPTCOR recently has produced a plethora of ADA-accommodating furniture for employees with back and knee problems, Plantone explained. At East Jersey's furniture shop, workers will produce desks and chairs to the clients' exact specifications. The DEPTCOR shop also receives old, damaged desks and chairs and refurbishes them to look brand new.



East Jersey State Prison houses three DEPTCOR shops, including the metal shop (pictured above).

"We'll make sit-stand tables that electronically raise and lower," Allen said. "We also do weapon storage for long guns, handguns, pistols as well as targets for ranges."

Plantone expanded: "We make a heavy-gauge locker that can take a lot of abuse, and it will still look brand new. All of our metal products are powder-coated, so they last a lot longer. And in the metal shop, the inmates are welding, grinding, powder-coating, bending and sheering."

If a product requires installation, DEPTCOR will commission its full-minimum inmate employees to assist with the assembly and installation.

"We do a lot for the Cape May Zoo," Allen explained, emphasizing the workers' installation of cages. "We also do a lot for the parks, like Allaire State Park. We built a lot of their cabins. Then, there's Stokes State Forest. We built their cabins and their bunk rooms and the bunk beds."

But DEPTCOR products aren't just utilized by government employees and at parks and beaches.

"Everything that an inmate wears, sits on or sleeps on is made by an inmate," Plantone said. "Mattresses, pillows, blankets, wash cloths, and *all* the clothing is made in one of our shops. We make beds for the inmate population. Plus, we make them for hospitals."

At the DEPTCOR warehouse in Trenton, inmates also rebuild and recondition old bicycles to be sold to low-income families at an affordable price, with proceeds benefiting the Boys & Girls Club in Trenton.

In Cumberland County, South Woods State Prison houses New Jersey's largest DEPTCOR operation, with four separate shops and two large warehouses. In the clothing, shoe, sign and print shops, inmates do everything from sewing and cutting materials to operating machinery in order to print business cards, envelopes, calendars and street and farm signs. Workers also produce more than 40 different garments as well as templates for newsletters.

South Woods' food and State Use Industries warehouses stay active 12 hours a day, five days a week. They receive raw materials, dispense them to the shops and kitchen, take back the finished products and ship them to their respective destinations.

The production of all of these publicly utilized items, office furniture and other products have helped to teach inmates valuable trade skills in an effort to limit idleness and assist in their efforts to find labor-intensive jobs when they are released.

Furthermore, the manufacturing of these products has resulted in significant savings for taxpayers by reducing state budgets on furniture, signs and other products.

"What gives DEPTCOR the edge," Allen said, "is the price of the product and also the quality of the product. And that's what keeps DEPTCOR going."





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Above and Beyond

Departmental Employees Honored at Annual Awards Ceremony

For Kerry Pimentel, doing a job competently just isn't enough.

As chief of the Contract Management Unit for the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Pimentel strongly believes it's an employee's obligation to "make a unit stronger than it was when you got there."

Her strong work ethic was recognized on December 2, when Pimentel received the Division of Programs and Community Services' Leader of the Year Award at the division's annual awards ceremony.

Dr. Darcella Sessomes, assistant commissioner for the Division of Programs and Community Services, praised Pimentel for her leadership qualities, including patience, kindness and modesty.

Pimentel, who recently marked her 21st year as an NJDOC employee, was genuinely moved by the honor, becoming emotional as she accepted her plaque.

"I can't imagine being anywhere else," she said.

Every year, the division recognizes individuals for exemplary achievements. It's a way of saying thank you to the division's employees who go beyond the requirements of their jobs through innovation, teamwork and a positive attitude.



Kerry Pimentel, chief of the Contract Management Unit for the New Jersey Department of Corrections, accepts the Division of Programs and Community Services' Leader of the Year Award from Marcus Hicks, director of the Office of Community Programs and Outreach Services.

This year, the unit also honored employees from other NJDOC divisions whose contributions were worthy of recognition.

In addition to Pimentel, the division's award recipients for 2016 are:

*Social Work Supervisor of the Year: Amy Southwick, social work supervisor at Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility.

*Social Services Department of the Year: South Woods State Prison (SWSP).

*Chaplain Supervisor of the Year: Rev. Bruce Crossland of Southern State Correctional Facility.

*Chaplaincy Department of the Year: Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women.

*Office of Community Programs/Office of Community Service Team Player of the Year: Lisa Palmiere, classification officer, Central Office headquarters (COHQ).

*Education Department of the Year: East Jersey State Prison (EJSP).

*Education Supervisor of the Year Award: Mark Yaros of Northern State Prison.

*Focus on the Victim Program-Facilitator of the Year: Imam Hesham Aly, chaplain at EJSP.

*Volunteer Coordinator of the Year: Carol Malone, volunteer coordinator at SWSP.

Awards recipients from other NJDOC divisions were:

*Eugene Pryor, administrative analyst, COHQ.

*Tony Morse, Office of Information Technology, COHQ.

*Senior Correction Officer Karriem Beyah of the Division of Operations, COHQ.

"As leaders we have a responsibility to model leadership in everything we do," Sessomes said. "The New Jersey Department of Corrections' greatest asset is our workforce."





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Building Strong Defenses

Correction Officer Shares His Expertise in Self-Defense

The best reason to be well educated in self-defense is so you never have to use it. As odd as that sounds, many defensive tactics schools emphasize this notion, because the process is as mental as it is physical. Senior Correction Officer Michael Wolhfert acknowledges that idea in his teachings in and out of the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

Wolhfert has been studying and practicing multiple forms of martial arts for nearly 20 years. A few years after his introduction to martial arts, he became an instructor before eventually enrolling in the Correctional Staff Training Academy in 2003.

He graduated from the Training Academy in 2004, and was assigned to East Jersey State Prison (EJSP), where he remained for five years. In 2008, he became a member of the correctional emergency response team.



Michael Wolhfert, director of training, instructs a class on pepper spray defense tactics.

A year later, Officers Alex Sholomisky and Tim Romanik from South Woods State Prison revamped the Training Academy's entire defensive tactics training program. Wolhfert was one of the first officers to go through their program when he left EJSP to become an instructor at the Training Academy.

Currently, he assists in overseeing the department's defensive tactics program and teaches classes on firearms, New Jersey criminal code, arrest search and seizure, use of force, active shooter response, baton, OC Pepper Spray, physical training, CPR/First-Aid and Mobile Field Force.

While Wolhfert helps improve the defensive skills of the department's officers, he also stays active outside of work, running his own training group, where he teaches civilians as well as some law enforcement officers how to properly and legally defend themselves in a variety of settings and situations. Since most defensive tactics schools don't acknowledge the law in their teachings, Wolhfert's program remains relatively unique.

"In martial arts, they teach you the techniques: 'This is how you punch; this is how you hit; this is how you defend yourself.' That's okay, but we all know it has to meet a lawful objective," Wolhfert explained. "For example, you can't get bumped in the supermarket and then do an eye-gauge. There are rules regarding use of force for civilians, just as there are for officers. All force has to be reasonable and necessary."

Wolhfert calls his defensive tactics school Justifiable Force. The school, which he founded two years ago, participates in seminar training, meaning they don't have their own set location.

"We rent out facilities or we have people host us — different martial arts schools, different firing ranges," Wolhfert related. "They provide us our venue. It's like a traveling roadshow, in a sense."

"And we also do private training, which would be on a one-on-one basis or in small groups," he continued.

Since the training group doesn't have a set location, seminars are accessible to audiences around the state. With this in mind, Justifiable Force offers programs for all proficiencies.

"It's not necessarily based upon a certain skill-level or demographic," Wolhfert said. "So we teach men, women, kids. We've had women in their 60s with three spine surgeries attend. There's no age-limit."

"And we pretty much teach the gambit of everything. We have classes for empty hands, firearms, edged weapons, impact weapons."

Each class, which lasts four hours, is intuitive and in-depth, exploring a variety of defensive skills and the legal capacity of each move and technique. Wolhfert and his associates acknowledge a vast number of defensive tactics, emphasizing the ones — physical *and* mental — that are designed to keep his students safe when they leave the seminar.

“What we teach is: What is your goal (in a given situation), and how do you achieve that goal?” he explained, adding that this helps his students reach a lawful objective safely when they are placed in a situation where they will need to utilize self-defense.

Wolhfert advised that you should always call the police first when you feel your safety may be in danger. “But, ultimately,” he said, “you are your own first responder.”

Wolhfert also suggested that when you are in a physical altercation, “you don’t have to be the master of all trades — you just need to know more than your opponent at the time.”

In this sense, his students can fluently learn enough defensive tactics in a four-hour class to keep them safe in most scenarios on the streets. However, Wolhfert emphasizes keeping up-to-date on defensive tactics in order to remain as safe and skillful as possible. He noted that while many correctional officers and other law enforcement personnel have trained at some point in their lives, the skills once mastered are not permanent.

“That’s the thing with training — it’s perishable, and it needs to have an upkeep,” Wolhfert acknowledged.

Regardless of the level of your training — beginner, intermediate, expert — Wolhfert encourages everyone to learn and keep practicing.

“Everyone has a level of what he or she can do at the current time. They should train at their level,” Wolhfert related. “It doesn’t matter if you’re old — there’s *something* you can do. It doesn’t matter if you’re young — there’s *something* you can do.”

Wolhfert, who is currently an expert in more than five forms of martial arts, plans to train for many years to come, stating that martial artists are always learning and growing.

“Still to this day I constantly train and take classes,” he said. “Every instructor needs to continue improving.”

“Being a martial artist for 20 years, I always say — with defensive tactics — it’s a journey. Just like a student’s journey is never-ending, an instructor’s journey is *also* never-ending.”





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Practice Makes Perfect

NJDOC Executes First-Ever Full-Scale Exercise for Frontline Staff

In a prison setting, almost anything can happen. There is no room for error, especially in an emergency situation, which is why the New Jersey Department of Corrections has participated in exercises annually since 2013.

This fall, the NJDOC participated in "Operation Restore Order," a full-scale exercise set forth to provide officials, observers and participants with the information and tools necessary to utilize the department's emergency response plans, policies and procedures.

"The overall scenario was set up to test the department's emergency preparedness in the event of a large-scale incident," said Lieutenant Clay McClain of the Special Operations Group (SOG).



The Special Operations Group's K-9 Unit joins frontline staff during "Operation Restore Order."

The exercise scenario took place in a section of East Jersey State Prison that was temporarily renamed "Down Under State Prison" for the day. Observers and participants from 15 New Jersey county jails were also involved in the exercise, either playing active roles in the simulation or viewing the ensuing events.

Operation Restore Order started off with an inmate who purposely inflicted second-degree burns upon himself. That incident ignited a rapid-fire series of events.

"From there, there was a situation where the officers in 7-wing were taken hostage," McClain stated. "There was an additional code that took place in 5-wing, where there were multiple inmates who were fighting each other. They, in turn, barricaded the door, which disallowed the responding team to enter. There was a fire that was started downstairs in 5-down. And there were also inmates inside the recreation yard who were becoming unsettled and were causing a disturbance."

Though it is unlikely that five separate events like these would ensue simultaneously within a prison, the NJDOC takes these exercises very seriously.

"These types of exercises are extremely important to Corrections, because it gives all the different entities that work in facilities, as well as the tactical response teams, a chance to participate in the drill," said Major James Keil, who oversees SOG. He added that it also helped to identify the strong points and weak points of the participants' responses.

Operation Restore Order was intended to focus on frontline staff (officers, supervisors and administrators) and their ability to respond to these emergencies.

"The actions that the facilities take were never looked at before in this manner," Keil said. "But in reality, the actions that the facilities take before SOG gets to a situation are *extremely* important."

McClain added: "We've done exercises in the past that were more centric to the tactical teams; whereas, this exercise was specifically designed to be more centric to frontline staff."

Officers from various state facilities were used to role-play as inmates for the fictitious Down Under State Prison. This added realism to the exercise, which gave frontline officers the opportunity to experience each emergency situation firsthand.

"It added to our focus, which was 'Corrections 101,'" Sergeant Michael Scantling of SOG explained. "It was the opportunity to have everyone come together and say, 'I know what I should do.' And that was a part of the evaluation process — to see if everyone in fact *does* know what to do. Whether you're an officer, supervisor, sergeant, lieutenant, major or administrator, the exercise was geared toward basic Corrections 101."

The incidents, although complicated due to the successive occurrences, were routine situations that correctional staff deal with, McClain said.

McClain, Keil and Scantling agreed that the exercise was a success. They explained that it did exactly what it was designed to do.

"It identified areas where there needs to be some improvement, and it exposed the staff — from administrative level down to custody level — to some scenarios that they may not have seen before," McClain said.

Scantling added that the exercise also generated dialogue. Custody staff and other department employees are still talking about the full-scale exercise, which helps them better prepare for potential unexpected occurrences in the future.

"And everybody was engaged in the scenario," Keil stated. "Everybody had their head in the game and was participating very professionally."

The realism of Operation Restore Order helped participants act in the moment as if the incidents were actually taking place.

"You can sometimes have individuals who will stumble because it is an exercise and because of the artificiality that is typically built into exercises," McClain said. "But I think because of the realistic setting and the convincing role-players, you didn't find anyone who slacked off just because it was an exercise."

McClain believes it is vital that the NJDOC continues to engage in full-scale exercises to remain educated and prepared in the progressive environment of corrections.

"Preparedness is always evolving," he stated. "So it's important for you to look at your plans, exercise your plans and make adjustments."

"You are always trying to be better. You are always looking for areas and opportunities to improve upon," McClain added. "So as a department, we are definitely moving in the right direction, because we are allowed to test the plans that we currently have in place so that we can identify areas to make improvements."

NJDOC Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan agrees that this exercise prepared participants to handle a variety of situations.

"I appreciate the effort of everyone involved in this exercise, including the very strong involvement from a number of our county jail partners," Lanigan said. "The planning for this event took almost a year, and this is just one type of emergency that our staff is trained to handle. While no one ever wants to deal with a real-life situation such as this, I sincerely believe that the citizens of New Jersey can be confident that our correction officers are prepared to deal with any situation that may arise."





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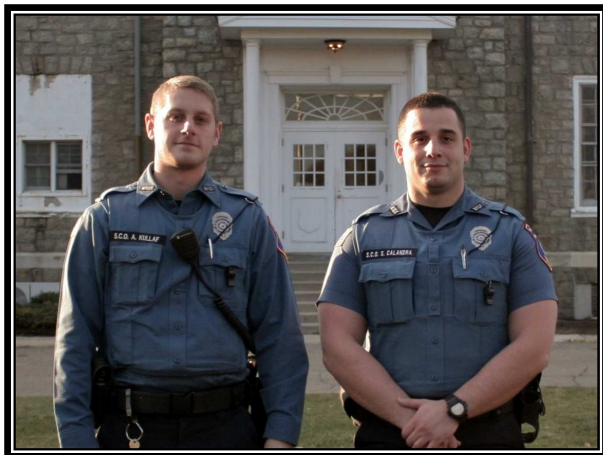
Full-Time Public Service

Correction Officers Aid Distressed Woman on Highway

Senior Correction Officers Salvatore Calandra and Andrew Kullaf began their careers in 2014 at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility after graduating from the New Jersey Department of Corrections' Correctional Staff Training Academy together. Two years later, they found themselves working together in a much more unusual fashion.

On December 8, 2016, Calandra and Kullaf worked together outside of the NJDOC when they aided a woman who was having a seizure on the side of the highway.

That afternoon, Calandra was driving on Route 80 toward Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility when he noticed a woman in a black BMW driving on the grass median. She then swerved across four lanes without hitting a single car and slammed into the guard rail of the right shoulder.



Senior Correction Officers Andrew Kullaf (left) and Salvatore Calandra started at Mountainview Youth Correctional Facility on the same day in 2014.

"That's when I pulled over. I had to stop," said Calandra, who left the NJDOC on January 6. "So I pulled behind the car and ran up to the window, and I noticed that the woman was having a seizure. While having the seizure, she had her foot on the gas pedal."

Due to her positioning, the woman then quickly accelerated again before coming to a complete stop shortly down the road. Fortunately, she remained on the highway's shoulder, and Calandra was able to approach the vehicle.

"As I was in pursuit of the vehicle (the second time)," Calandra said, "Officer Kullaf pulled up to provide assistance."

Officers Calandra and Kullaf knew that they had to gain entry into the vehicle quickly and put the car in park before it could take off down the highway again. A couple, who briefly pulled over, offered them a hammer, which Calandra used to break open the passenger-side window. He immediately jumped into the car, put it in park and took the keys out of the ignition. Once the keys were out, the officers opened the doors and assisted an off-duty emergency medical technician (EMT) and off-duty nurse who had also stopped to help.

"When we finally were able to get to her, she had no clue where she was or what was going on. So we had to make sure we kept her calm," Kullaf explained.

The officers and others were able to keep her calm and render aid until the Fairfield Police, the New Jersey State Police and an ambulance arrived, at which point the woman became alert and conscious.

Calandra and Kullaf credit their handling of the situation to their extensive training in Corrections.

"We owe a lot to our training," Kullaf said.

The 16-week Correctional Staff Training Academy facilitates growth in a number of areas both inside and outside of the facility.

"In the Academy, they tell you that you're no longer a civilian — you're a law enforcement officer now," Kullaf said. "So it becomes an instinct. A normal person driving down the highway might just keep driving. But for us, we don't even think. We just pull right over."

Calandra agreed with Kullaf.

"It's all of the training that we've had," said Calandra. "It's instilled into our minds now. It's become our personality. We're there to help."

Though the officers said it was an unfortunate incident, they are thankful for the way everything played out.

"It was one of those situations where we were all at the right place at the right time," Kullaf said. "[Calandra] happened to be right there; I pulled up

right after him. We were given a hammer and able to get into the car right away. And then the EMT and nurse came and rendered first aid.

"Everything happened to fall into place," he added.

The woman did not sustain any obvious injuries; however, her current condition is unknown.

"I would like to know who she is so that I can follow up and know that she is okay," Calandra stated. "But at the end of the day, we were all there for her, which is most important."





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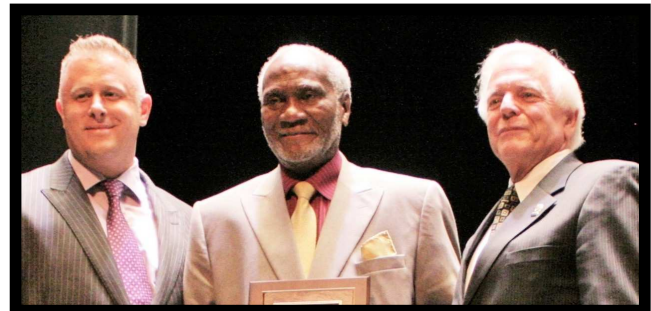
Longtime Altruist

Volunteer Preaches the Message of Shaping Your Destiny

At 78 years young, Bishop Arthur Jenkins Sr. walks with a slight limp, but he doesn't let that hinder him from what he wants to do and, more importantly, what he wants to say.

What he wants to say are uplifting words that will inspire inmates to make wise decisions once they re-enter society.

"I'm a strong believer in having a positive mindset," Jenkins explained. "The mind is a powerful source. It's always necessary to tap into it."



Bishop Arthur Jenkins Sr. (center) was selected as East Jersey State Prison's Volunteer of the Year. Joining him at the awards ceremony are East Jersey State Prison Administrator Patrick Nogan (left) and Commissioner Gary M. Lanigan.

As he described it, the mind helps provide guidance throughout one's life.

"Life is a big choice," he said. "The choice you make will determine your future, the direction you want to go in."

Jenkins' upbeat attitude, along with the religious and spiritual lessons he preaches two days a week during services at East Jersey State Prison, can help explain why he was recently selected as the facility's Volunteer of the Year. He was recognized during an awards ceremony at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton.

"I was ecstatic and humbled," said Jenkins, who heads the Community Church of Iselin, Middlesex County, which he founded some 50 years ago. "I

was taught to always be thankful for every day that you're here on this earth."

Jenkins has been volunteering with the New Jersey Department of Corrections for 35 years. He has a simple reason for doing it: to help steer people toward a more promising path. He remembered how he had to overcome his own personal demon: substance abuse.

"I grew up during a time where it could have been me who wound up inside prison," Jenkins reflected. "I want to show them there's another way. When I go there, I get more from them than they do from me.

"I like sharing the story of Nelson Mandela. That's what is going to lift their spirits," he added. "To watch their faces, the smiles, the jubilation, it makes it all worth it."

Jenkins was nominated for the Volunteer award by the Rev. Lawrence Akins, chaplaincy supervisor at EJSP.

"(Bishop) Jenkins Sr. has committed more than 35 years of continuous service at East Jersey State Prison and other NJDOC facilities. He has consistently proclaimed messages of inspiration and hope to the men incarcerated in the institution," Akins wrote. "One of the unique features of Pastor Jenkins' service is his ability to connect with the population, regardless of age, cultural, or ethnic backgrounds.

"His style and energy are inimitable, and he has persevered in his commitment even through personal health concerns. Further, he has prepared his son and grandson (Arthur Jenkins Jr. and Arthur Jenkins III) to follow in his footsteps. Both are also deeply involved in the ministry behind the walls."

Jenkins said he tries to communicate with the inmates in a way that makes them feel important.

"I try not to speak above them, but with them," he said. "It's a continual dialogue, and you have to work at it every time. It doesn't happen overnight."

As one of 11 children, Jenkins credits his strong-willed mother for instilling in him the importance of being responsible. He said she exhibited great fortitude in raising so many children, especially when his father died when Jenkins was just 10 years old.

"She would sit us down and tell us how important it was to be respectful and to live a life of purpose," Jenkins recalled. "She was both the man and the woman in the house."

Jenkins said his church has offered assistance to former inmates, pointing them to areas or resources where they can receive assistance, such as counseling. Ultimately, though, Jenkins said a person's success is based on making sound decisions.

"No matter what bad situations you find yourself in, there are answers," he said. "There's a system that will help you overcome something you don't want. You have to make the choice to apply it."





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Got Your Back

Correction Officer Aids State Trooper Involved in Highway Collision

We often recognize our commute to work as the long, monotonous routine that begins our day. Sometimes, however, that routine can be broken in the blink of an eye.

Driving to work at Northern State Prison in November 2016, Senior Correction Officer Cesar Maschang came to the aid of an injured New Jersey State Trooper after watching a tractor trailer collide with a State Police vehicle on the New Jersey Turnpike.



Cesar Maschang has been an officer with the New Jersey Department of Corrections for more than five years.

The tractor trailer unintentionally rear-ended the unmarked State Police vehicle as the officer was slowing down to respond to a separate accident on the opposite side of the highway.

"After the collision, I immediately tried to block traffic for the safety of the officer," Maschang said. "Then I got out of my vehicle and approached

his vehicle to make sure the state trooper was alright. That was my first priority."

Upon reaching the vehicle, Maschang noticed the officer had suffered a laceration on his head and was bleeding profusely from his forehead and nose.

"I tried to have a little conversation with him — as brief as possible — to make sure he was alright and to keep him conscious," Maschang explained. "And there was a rag in the car, so I had him hold that and keep pressure on his head."

With the state trooper disoriented and the vehicle's radio inoperable, Maschang used his cell phone to call 911. He continued to follow emergency procedure, looking for a first aid kit and securing the officer's weapons and belongings until backup arrived.

"The first responders arrived in under 10 minutes, but during that time, you know, it feels like an eternity," Maschang said.

Maschang attributes his handling of the situation to his training with the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

"I'm blessed to be in this career," Maschang said. "This career has taught me in a number of ways. It has put me in so many situations where I've had to stay calm, cool and collected."

He also is appreciative of the NJDOC's annual first aid and CPR training, which he said is immensely important, especially when confronted with emergency situations.

Maschang was able to gain valuable foresight from this experience.

"As attentive as I was before, now I'm a lot more vigilant, especially when driving to and from work," he said.

The state trooper was reportedly in stable condition following the accident.

Maschang doesn't want praise for his actions, stating that virtually any one of his fellow officers would have done the same thing.

"We have a lot of great officers," he said. "We have a tough job, and, unfortunately, the media and the public do not always see the good that we do. But we'll take any opportunity we can to help others in need."

"I didn't do anything special," he added. "I just did my job."





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'Just Doing My Job'

New Jersey State Prison Officer Thrives, Others Take Notice

It didn't take long for New Jersey State Prison Administrator Steve Johnson to realize how fortunate he is that Senior Correction Officer Monica Rivera is a member of his staff.

"She tirelessly works behind the scenes to make sure everything in this facility runs smoothly," Johnson said. "She's just incredibly competent and dedicated. The more I learn about this job, the more I appreciate Monica Rivera."

Among Rivera's many responsibilities, she coordinates organizational tours of the prison. In that capacity, Mark Murphy, president of Lead New Jersey, noticed many of the same attributes that were cited by Johnson. That's why Lead New Jersey selected Rivera as one of its "30 Leaders for 30 Years" award recipients. She was recognized at the organization's 30th Anniversary Gala, which was held September 22, 2016, at the Liberty House in Jersey City.

"I have been president of Lead New Jersey for the last five years, and over five visits to the facility, you, Officer Rivera, have stood out as an outstanding leader who is often mentioned, even months or years later, by our leadership Fellows for your strength of command and compassion,"



Senior Correction Officer Monica Rivera's years with the department have been marked by involvement in a wide range of areas.

Murphy wrote in a letter informing Rivera of the award for which she was selected.

Rivera also has served as a Correctional Staff Training Academy instructor. Not surprisingly, her performance has earned her accolades.

"Your high-energy demeanor and obvious passion for the subject matter has been identified as some of the best training associated with the New Jersey Department of Corrections," a 2016 commendation she received stated.

"Your transparent desire to engage and captivate your audience with real and relevant scenarios has raised the bar extremely high for staff training." For her part, however, Rivera is rather puzzled by the fuss.

"I'm flattered by the honors and the kind words, but I certainly am not in this for the recognition," she said. "The fact is, I'm just doing my job."

Her job has been at New Jersey State Prison since 2001, when Rivera left the public sector to become a communications operator with the NJDOC. In 2005, she attended the Training Academy, then made the switch from civilian staff to custody staff.

Her years with the department have been marked by involvement in a wide array of areas. In addition to organizational tours and Training Academy classes, she also serves as an ID officer, an adjunct training officer, a Cop2Cop officer and a member of the Critical Incident Negotiation Team. She previously was part of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team. Rivera also found time to graduate from Rider University in May 2016 with a degree in Criminal Justice.

"I'm sure I'd get bored doing the same thing over and over again," said Rivera, the mother of two adult children, one of whom – daughter Shaneesha – is an NJDOC communications operator based at the Central Office headquarters.

"One of the reasons I love my job is the diversity," she continued. "I like different challenges, and, for me, no two days are the same."

Rivera describes herself as a "people person," which fits in well with her many responsibilities.

"When you're able to make people you're dealing with feel comfortable, you can see it in their demeanor," she related. "For example, visitors [during tours] get so much more out of a tour when they're relaxed and engaged. That's how I want them to feel, but at the same time, I want them to understand the challenges we face inside the walls of the prison."

"It's not unusual for people on tours to compare the facility to what they see on television or in the movies. I get it, but I have to let them know the real story and that the staff has a clear understanding of what has to be done to keep everyone safe and secure. By the end of the tour, hopefully everyone has been enlightened and has an appreciation for how those of us in corrections make a positive difference.

"After all," she concluded, "I don't view the people I work with as simply my co-workers. We depend on each other so much that they feel like extended family."

It's noticeable.





A Fitting Tribute

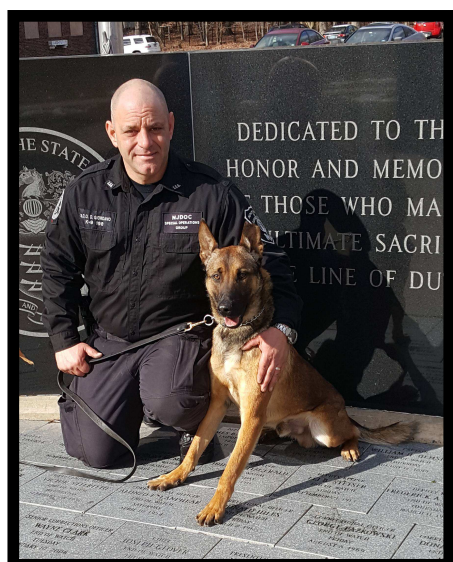
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Correction Officer Names Canine in Remembrance of Delaware Lieutenant

Dogs are commonly referred to as man's best friend, but to Senior Correction Officer David Giordano and his colleagues in the Special Operations Group's Canine Unit, dogs are also partners in law enforcement.

Following the retirement of his former partner, Remo, Giordano was assigned a new canine, a 13-month-old Belgian Malinois bred in Holland. After the first week of becoming acquainted, Giordano decided to name his new partner Floyd to honor the memory of Lieutenant Steven Floyd, Sr., of the Delaware Department of Correction.



Senior Correction Officer David Giordano, who has been with the New Jersey Department of Corrections for nearly two decades, poses with his new canine partner, Floyd.

Lieutenant Floyd was credited with saving the lives of his colleagues after warning his fellow officers of a hostage situation in Building C of the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center near Smyrna, Delaware, on February 1, 2017. The lieutenant became the first officer in the history of the Delaware Department of Correction to perish in the line of duty.

"The man gave his life for the purpose we serve," Giordano said. "I named the dog to honor him."

Reflecting on what transpired at the Delaware correctional facility, Giordano said that there is a profound bond that bridges across all realms of law enforcement, and naming his new canine Floyd was his way to memorialize a man who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

"Without hesitation I said yes, as a sense of pride and respect for Dave's decision overwhelmed not just myself, but the unit as a whole," Canine Unit Supervisor Lieutenant Frank Martin said of Giordano's request to name his new dog Floyd. "I would like to thank Officer Giordano on behalf of myself, the Canine Unit and the Special Operations Group for honoring Steven Floyd in the most fitting way a canine handler can."

Canine Floyd will go through rigorous training to become a patrol, contraband, tracking and apprehension dog, capable of tracing both articles and people. After 16 weeks of patrols and 14 weeks learning scents with Giordano, who is a patrol trainer and scent trainer, the canine will be well prepared for his new duties.

According to Giordano, it takes about a year for a canine and handler to form a tight working bond.

"It's a bond that, until you have it, nobody understands really what it is," explained Giordano.

Giordano began his career with the New Jersey Department of Corrections at the Mid-State Correctional Facility in 2000 before joining the Community Emergency Response Team in 2005. He has been a member of the Canine Unit since 2009.

Giordano is also the handler of a narcotics dog named Monte, a five-year-old Chesapeake Bay Retriever and Lab mix. Monte found his new purpose in life after being surrendered by his previous owner approximately three years ago due to his high energy level, which has since been appropriately channeled for his work on Narcotics Patrol.

One of Giordano's retired partners, Chance, a 10-year-old Black Lab, currently "lives on the couch" at his home, where the canine is spoiled by the officer's wife and children. Giordano also has a pet Chug – a Chihuahua and Pug mix – named Carly, who his family rescued from a shelter.

However, for Giordano and a majority of his fellow canine officers, the pets and the working dogs do not interact. The canines have their own kennel for the purpose of keeping them completely focused on their work.

"They have a job to do, so they need to know what their job is," said Giordano. "You don't want them getting comfortable being home, you want them comfortable being with us at work."

That is, at least, until they retire to the couch.

